



# SYRIA HUMANITARIAN FLASH APPEAL DECEMBER 2024



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## Background:

Military operations continue in Syria, particularly in the northeast and east, in areas like Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, Ayn al-Arab, Manbij, and the Tishrin Dam region, where there are clashes between the Syrian Democratic Forces (PKK / PYD) and the Syrian National Army.

In southern Syria, particularly in Quneitra, Israel has entered several villages in the Quneitra Governorate, leading to the suspension of schools and attacks on properties.

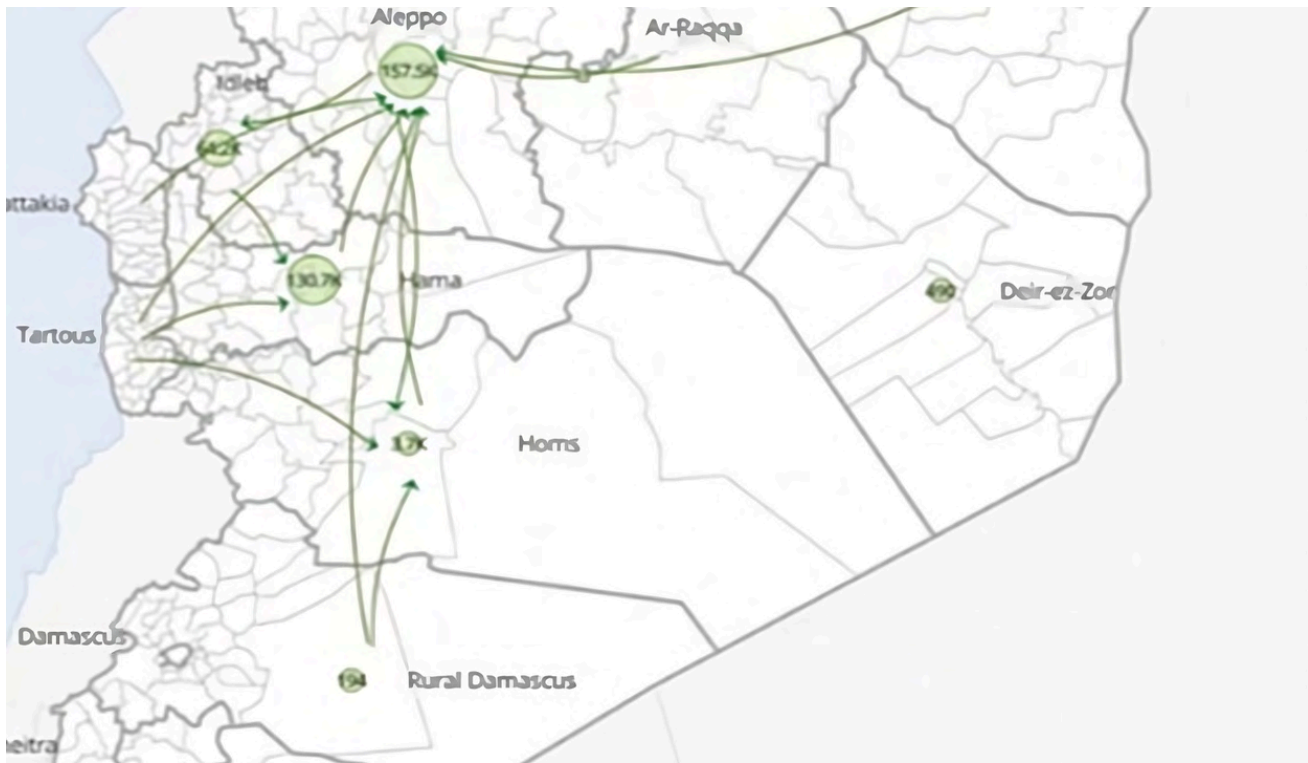
Tartus and Latakia are still facing security issues. Since November 28, there has been internal displacement from areas with increased military activity and hostile actions.

However, since December 8, the security situation has improved in Damascus, Homs, and Aleppo, with some security problems still existing, though not significantly obstructing overall operations. Nonetheless, humanitarian activities in Tartus, Latakia, Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, and Manbij are being hindered.



Internal displacement ranges between 800,000 and one million people. Regarding displaced people in Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon, there is a movement of return to Syria through various border crossings between Turkey and Syria, including the Cilvegözü crossing, Öncüpınar crossing, al-Rai crossing, Jarabulus crossing, and Kessab crossing. Similarly, there is movement through the crossings between Lebanon and Syria, such as the Masnaa and Jousieh crossings. There is also the transit of trucks, cars, and people between Syria and Jordan via the Nassib crossing.

Through our teams' field visits in Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Damascus, and the surrounding areas, there is general calm, but residents still face challenges, including a shortage of fuel, rising prices, and unstable exchange rates for foreign currencies. Exchange rates in Damascus, Aleppo, and Homs range from 15,000 to 25,000 Syrian pounds per dollar, with reduced purchasing power. There is a significant need for food, emergency assistance, housing, healthcare, non-food items, and sanitation. Movement has significantly improved between Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, and Damascus. However, it remains nearly nonexistent in areas around Manbij, Ayn al-Arab, Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, and Al-Hasakah due to ongoing military operations.



# HUMANITARIAN IMPACT, NEEDS AND GAP:

## Protection:

The overall security situation remains volatile, with certain security issues in Tartus and its countryside, as well as in Latakia and its countryside. These areas, located along the Syrian coast, are particularly affected by clashes between remnants and factions of the former regime and forces of the new government. Additionally, several cells affiliated with the former regime are attempting to destabilize security in these cities.

In the regions east of the Euphrates, the security situation also remains dire due to ongoing military activities in Kobani, Raqqa, and Deir ez-Zor. This has led to significant displacement towards relatively safer areas. However, displaced individuals face considerable risks during their journeys, compounded by resource shortages, high prices, and decreased purchasing power due to widespread poverty.

These challenges have profound psychological impacts, particularly on women, children, and the elderly. The constant threats to community safety and security perpetuate ongoing crises, leading to family disintegration. Children are often in one area while the head of the family is in another, and access to basic services such as healthcare, education, food, and shelter is severely restricted. This is particularly critical during the cold winter season.



## Food Security and Agriculture:

The cessation of most activities since the onset of military operations on November 28, 2024, until the preparation of this report, along with rising prices for essential goods—particularly food, transportation, heating materials, and fuel—has exacerbated challenges. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and newly arrived individuals face severe shelter shortages due to extensive destruction in Damascus and its countryside, including entire neighborhoods such as Qaboun, Jobar, Harasta, Arbeen, Daraya, Douma, Zabadani, and Madaya.

In addition, Aleppo and its countryside, particularly areas such as Haydariya, Hellok, Tariq al-Bab, Shaar, Hreitan, Tell Rifaat, Hayan, and Bayanon, have suffered significant damage. Similarly, Homs and its countryside, including neighborhoods like Khalidiya, Baba Amr, and Talbiseh, as well as southern Idlib areas such as Saraqib, Maarat al-Numan, and Khan Sheikhoun, have been heavily affected. This widespread devastation has led to significant challenges for most families across all regions of Syria and has disrupted efforts to secure basic goods for the community.

## Nutrition:

There are significant challenges in the field of nutrition across all regions of Syria due to extreme poverty affecting both the local population and newly arrived individuals, particularly infants. There is a severe shortage of infant formula and child nutrition supplies, compounded by their high cost, making them inaccessible to families. Breastfeeding is also insufficient due to mothers' poor nutrition and psychological distress caused by the war.

In addition, the lack of basic cooking essentials, poor or nonexistent hygiene, limited food availability, skyrocketing prices, and reduced purchasing power have worsened the situation. Families' monthly incomes have dropped below the hunger threshold, with government employees' salaries under the previous regime amounting to no more than \$25 per month. Widespread unemployment and limited job opportunities have further exacerbated the lives of people, hindering their ability to achieve proper nutrition.



## Health:

The lack of security and ongoing military operations in various regions of Syria have caused significant challenges in the field of public health, affecting primary and secondary healthcare centers as well as hospitals. There is a severe shortage of various medicines, including antibiotics, pediatric medications, painkillers, anesthetics, and drugs for chronic diseases such as heart conditions and diabetes. Additionally, there is a substantial deficit in medical consumables.

There is an urgent need to support operating clinics and hospitals, which are insufficient to meet the population's needs. Furthermore, there is a critical necessity to rehabilitate hospitals and clinics that have been damaged by airstrikes, as well as to build new clinics in areas where healthcare centers have been destroyed. These facilities must be fully equipped with furniture and medical supplies, particularly in regions such as:

- Aleppo countryside, including Manbij, Hreitan, Anadan, and Bayanon.
- Southern Idlib countryside, including Saraqib and Maarat al-Numan.
- Damascus countryside, including Douma, Zabadani, and Harasta.
- Addressing these healthcare challenges is essential to alleviate the suffering of affected communities and provide the necessary medical support to those in need.



## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):

The lack of access to clean water has led to severe health issues, including the spread of diseases, epidemics, and infectious illnesses. This is primarily due to the destruction of water and sanitation networks caused by continuous bombardment over the past 13 years. This situation affects both displaced and resident families. The lack of maintenance of drinking water and sewage systems, and instances of water contamination due to mixing with sewage, have resulted in polluted drinking water and outbreaks of waterborne and infectious diseases such as cholera and diarrhea, especially among children.

Even in areas previously controlled by the former regime, there has been little attention to drinking water and sanitation systems. The lack of maintenance has caused significant deterioration and damage to the networks.

As a result, one of the most urgent needs across various regions of Syria—such as Aleppo and its countryside, Damascus and its countryside, Homs and its countryside, and the Idlib countryside—is for projects to rehabilitate and renew water and sanitation networks. Replacing these networks in areas devastated by the war is critical to improving public health and preventing further disease outbreaks.



## Shelter:

As a result of the war, there has been extensive destruction of homes and vital infrastructure across various Syrian provinces.

To facilitate the return of refugees from neighboring countries and camps, it is essential to rebuild destroyed neighborhoods and restore existing structures following a comprehensive assessment by specialized engineers. This is particularly urgent in Aleppo and its countryside, Damascus and its countryside, Homs, Hama countryside, and Idlib countryside.

Many homes have been completely destroyed, while others are significantly damaged and require substantial support to make them habitable again. Providing adequate housing solutions is crucial for resettling people and enabling their return to Syria.





## Education:

Education has continued in areas with fewer security issues, such as Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia, Tartus, and Homs. However, there is a significant need to rebuild schools that were destroyed during the war and to renovate damaged or abandoned schools that were previously used as military barracks. There is also a critical need for school furniture, including desks, tables, storage cabinets, and more.



## Non-Food Items (NFIs):

After 13 years of war, which is still ongoing, there is a substantial demand for non-food items, especially for families who have recently returned from displacement. Essential items such as kitchen supplies, household items, bedding, and hygiene kits are urgently needed.

This is particularly important in rural Aleppo areas, such as Manbij, Tell Rifaat, and others.



## Logistics:

There are significant challenges in this sector due to the destruction of primary and secondary road infrastructure across various regions of Syria, particularly between Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, and Homs. The secondary roads are in dire need of repair, restoration, and the construction of new routes. These issues have created major obstacles for the transportation of various logistical supplies, including fuel, food, trade goods, and transportation between provinces.

## Early Recovery Programs:

Early recovery efforts must focus on providing safe and healthy shelters and ensuring the necessities for a normal life. This includes the development of vital infrastructure, such as constructing roads, building and rehabilitating water tanks, and maintaining water and sanitation networks, as well as rebuilding and renovating schools.

These initiatives will contribute to stabilizing the population and fostering a return to normal life, as the war has exhausted Syria entirely—its people, infrastructure, and more. Serious projects must be undertaken by donors and civil society organizations to help rebuild and revitalize Syria for a better future.

## Implementation Methodology:

IBC has proven experience and history in responding to large-scale emergencies. We are going to use our expertise to respond to the emergency in Syria. Our program will be implemented directly through our teams on the ground or through our partners who were present in Syria even before this current crisis. Based on the identified needs.

Together, we can bring hope and relief to the people of Syria during this time of immense hardship.

**For more information:**



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